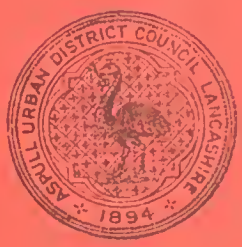
ASPULL

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1960

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ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman :

T. GREEN, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

H. LOWE, Esq.

Councillors :

County Alderman	J. HIGHAM, Esq., J.P.
J. MAWDSLEY, Esq.	J. MOORE, Esq.
J. TABERNER, Esq.	J. HATTON, Esq.
(Chairman, Health Committee)	A. SINGER, Esq., J.P.
T. GRAY, Esq.	H. LOWE, Esq.

Clerk :

P. RYDER, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :

Medical Officer of Health :

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

N. G. WEIR,

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Inspectors' Association of Scotland.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Aspull.

To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1960.

The Report is in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest taken in the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the district, and I would also like to extend my thanks to the Public Health Inspector and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
G. H. POTTER,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area : 1,906 acres.

Population (Census 1951): 6,522.
Estimated mid-1959 (Registrar General): 6,720.

Total Number of Houses: 2,210.

Rateable Value: £42,921.

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £164.

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class.

Industries : One Cotton Mill, One Engineering Works and One Modern Bakery.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1960

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Live Births—Legitimate	62	48	110
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Still Births—Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ...	2	1	3
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age ...	—	1	1

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :

Total (all forms)—

Crude Rate	9.6
Adjusted Rate	12.4
Respiratory Tuberculosis	—
Malignant neoplasm, etc.	1.48

Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population—

Crude Rate	16.7
Adjusted Rate	16.4
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	8.8
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births	—
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	26.5
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	8.8
Early Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	8.8
Pre-natal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	17.5

CANCER.

Ten deaths (6 males and 4 females) were certified as due to cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Aspull residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at Wigan Infirmary, which for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	Number of Deaths	
	1959	1960
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Diptheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	7	6
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	2	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	9
Coronary disease, angina	11	12
Hypertension with heart disease	1	4
Other heart disease	11	12
Other circulatory disease	4	2
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	4	1
Bronchitis	3	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	—
Congenital malformations	—	2
All other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	4
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—
All other accidents	2	1
Suicide	—	—
Totals	71	65

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan and the arrangements are satisfactory. Chemical analyses of water samples are carried out at the City Analyst's Department at the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department and during 1960, reports were made to the Authority on 17 examinations of milk and 12 of water.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS

During the year, Non-Infectious, Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with adequately by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council, stationed at Hindley and Standish.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 20 of which 15 were cases of Whooping Cough, 3 Measles, 1 Scarlet Fever and 1 Pneumonia.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and the local hospitals, and are always available to the medical practitioners.

Free immunisation is provided for any pre-school or school child, and is performed by the Medical Officer at the Clinic.

No immunisation against the enteric group was undertaken during 1960.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following statistics show the number of children resident in Aspull who were immunised and vaccinated during the year.

	Pre-School Children		*School Children*		*Adults*
	1959	1960	1959	1960	1960
Triple Atigen (Diphtheria-Whooping Cough and Tetanus)	88	99	5	33	—
Diphtheria Re-inforcing Iinjections	—	12	4	183	—
Poliomyelitis: Primary	20	87	231	20	108
Re-inforcing ...	142	88	499	142	307
Smallpox Vaccinations	88	54	—	—	2
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	—	2

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remain high and the cases of head lice dealt with at the clinic were few and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1960

DISEASES	Total Cases all ages	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25 and over	Age Un-known
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough...	15	—	—	3	2	—	8	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis											
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding Rubella)	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Total Cases all ages	0—	5—	15—	45—	65 and over	Age Un-known
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. and Infl'zal)...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meninges and C.N.S. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

The dispensary service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and Aspull cases attend at the Chest Clinic in Millgate, Wigan.

No cases of pulmonary or non pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

No deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred during 1960.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The district is supplied with water from Bolton Corporation, Wigan Rural District Council and Liverpool Corporation. The supply is upland surface and is found to be bacteriologically pure. During the year 8 bacteriological examinations and 4 chemical analyses of the piped supply were made and these proved satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main.

During the year the County Borough of Bolton became the responsible Authority for the Supply and Maintenance of the water undertaking for the district.

No. of houses with supply direct from the public water main	2,208
No. of houses supplied from springs, etc.	Nil
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The combined system of drainage is in operation throughout the district. All dwellings with the exception of 14 isolated cottages and farms have a water carriage system of sanitation.

During the year 107 inspections were made in connection with drainage and sewerage.

Number of choked drains and sewers cleared by the Authority	69
Number of houses affected	105

The Sanitary Accommodation in the district at the end of the year was :—

Number of Fresh Water Closets	2,181
Number of Pail Closets	13
Number of Privy Middens	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street scavenging is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

One driver and four labourers are employed full time on refuse collection and a tractor and driver on the tip.

Difficulty is experienced in obtaining the proper type of labour in refuse collection. This is due no doubt to the supposedly menial character of the work and also the fact that there are a large number of alternative jobs available in the area. I must stress however that refuse collection is a very important service provided for the community and deserves very serious consideration in all its aspects.

The purchase by the Council of a tractor equipped with a bulldozer blade, rear-loader and trailer has greatly facilitated work on the Marsh House tip.

A weekly collection is being maintained as far as possible in all parts of the district. On occasions however, mainly due to the weather conditions and sickness this has not been possible.

A weekly collection is maintained to all business premises and facilities are provded on the refuse vehicle for salvage collection. A total weight of 30 tons 19 cwts 2 qrs. of paper was sold during the year.

Controlled tipping is enforced at the Marsh House refuse tip and has shown very gratifying results. The filling in of a portion of the tip has been completed and the area grassed.

When the present area being used is completed it should provide an added amenity to the district of open park-land.

A dust bin replacement scheme providing for the renewal of 200 dustbins per year is in operation in the district.

There are 13 pail closets, one privy midden and approximately 2,215 dustbins within the district.

Approximate number of dustbins emptied	120,921
Approximate number of pail closets emptied	692
Approximate weight of refuse removed (tons)	4,621

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following action was taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of defects :—

Number of Informal Notices served	207
Number of Statutory Notices served	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	Nil
Number of Defects and Nuisances found	471
Number abated	327

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no licensed caravan sites within the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are two factory chimneys in the district and no action has been found necessary during the year.

Clean Air Act, 1956 : The whole of the Clean Air Act, 1956, came into operation on 1st June, 1956. Previously this Authority had adopted bye-laws governing the installation of types of appliances in all new premises, suitable to burn permissible types of fuel.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are none in the district.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year 41 houses infested with cockroaches were treated with Pybuthrin. Twenty-two other houses were disinfested of other insect pests either by spraying with liquid insecticide or by dusting with insecticidal powder. This type of treatment proved highly efficient.

RODENT CONTROL

182 infestations of rats or mice were cleared during the year in addition to the two sewer treatments. The treatment of dwelling houses is free of charge but a charge is made for treatment of business premises.

1,671 inspections (including re-inspections) were made in 1960.

One Rodent Operative is employed for three days per week on this work.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no registered premises within the district.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 and 1936

12 Licences to store petroleum were issued during the year and six inspections were made under the Acts.

HOUSING

The township consists chiefly of working class houses which are old in type and constantly falling into disrepair.

Overcrowding exists only to a minor degree and those requiring houses are mainly married couples having to live with parents. 51 new housing applications were received during the year, of which eleven were applications for old people's bungalows.

During the year 39 new houses were constructed by the local authority and tenanted. Consisting of one two-bedroom flat, 33 three bedroom houses, and five one-bedroom flats. 49 families were re-housed during the year, 30 from slum clearance properties and 19 from the housing list.

A further scheme for the next five years has been agreed by the Council and several houses have already been dealt with which are included in this programme.

At the end of the year there was no building in progress by the Local Authority, but 12 houses were in course of erection by private enterprise.

The five-year scheme for slum clearance has been completed, 69 houses having been dealt with.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year—

Traditional permanent houses :

(i) By Local Authority	39
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	17

1.—INSPECTION of dwelling houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 419

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 573

(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit—

(a) Number found during year 81

(b) Total number (or estimated number) existing at end of year 69

(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ... 327

2.—HOUSES DEMOLISHED

In clearance Areas :—

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons	Displaced during year Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
Not in Clearance Area :—			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	26	86	26
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—	—	—

3.—UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—

4.—UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT and Houses in which Defects were Remedied :—

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	137	—
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts	123	—
(b) Housing Act, 1957	1	—
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—

5.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE

(Housing Act, 1957)

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of separate dwellings contained in Col. (1) (2)
Position at end of year :—		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	Nil	Nil
(b) Under Section 17(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Under Section 46	Nil	Nil
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	Nil	Nil

6.—PURCHASE OF HOUSE by Agreement

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of occupants of houses in Col. (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	Nil	Nil

RENT ACT, 1957

There has been a reduction in the number of applications and queries appertaining to the Rent Act, 1957. In my opinion this is mainly due to the fact that repairs are being dealt with more speedily by landlords who are in receipt of increased rents.

During the year the following applications and undertakings were dealt with in respect of repairs to houses where the rent had been increased.

PART I—

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

(1)	Number of applications for Certificates	7
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	1
(3)	Number of decisions to issue Certificates	6
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects	—
	(b) in respect of all defects	6
(4)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	4
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	—
(6)	Number of Certificates issued	2

PART II—

APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

(7)	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates	1
(8)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	—
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	—
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	1

7.—HOUSING ACTS—Improvement Grants, etc.

No applications were received for Improvement Grants during the year.

Four applications for Standard Grants were received and approved during the year. These applications were made by owner/occupiers.

In my opinion more use could be made of the scheme by owners of tenanted houses in the area. There are many properties within the area which could be vastly improved by means of Standard Grants. There is no doubt this was indeed the primary intention behind the introduction of Standard Grants.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Routine inspections of farms and dairies have been carried out and a good standard of cleanliness maintained. 17 samples of milk have been analysed, and proved to be satisfactory.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1958, came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. Therefore, on and after that date all dairymen retailing milk in any part of the area must sell the milk under special designation (that is "Pasteurised" "Sterilised" and "Tuberculin Tested") irrespective of whether the premises from which the milk is retailed are inside or outside the area, and any milk which is retailed outside the specified area from those same premises must also be sold under special designation.

During the year licences under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, were issued to the following :—

Dealers in Sterilised Milk	26
Dealers in Pasteurised Milk	4
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk ...	2
Number of registered distributors	4

There is one dairy in the district.

The following is a record of action taken in relation to sampling

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No Result
(a) Raw Milk—				
(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests	9	9(Neg)	—	—
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	6	6	—	—
(iii) B. Typhosus examinations ...	6	6	—	—
(iv) Sediment tests	—	—	—	—
(b) "Heat treated" Milk—				
(i) Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
"Pasteurised"				
(ii) Phosphatase tests	8	8	—	—
(iii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	8	8	—	—
"Sterilised"				
(iv) Turbidity tests	—	—	—	—

No Ministry investigations by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were found necessary during the year as a result of notifications of tuberculosis milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no private slaughterhouses in the district.

Butchers obtain their supplies from surrounding abattoirs.

The following other food was condemned during the year :—

Tinned Meats	92 lbs.

Food condemned is collected by the Authority and buried on the refuse tip or burned.

The following is a list of food premises within the district :—

Type of Business :	
General grocers and provision dealers	31
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish game, etc.)	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meat, tripe, etc.)	5
Bakers and/or confectioners	9
Fried fish shops	7
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	8
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and other similar establishments	27

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, was as follows :—

Premises for the storage and retail sale of ice-cream ...	24
Preserved, etc., food premises	4

Eighteen visits were paid to the registered premises during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

All food premises and vehicles of hawkers entering the district have been inspected; also the vehicles of itinerant ice-cream vendors.

Considerable progress has been made without resort to formal action or prosecution, but much more remains to be achieved.

The obligations of the occupiers and food handlers as regards the condition of premises and methods of food handling are greatly stressed in the Regulations, but customers and consumers would greatly help to facilitate the work of the Public Health Inspector by observing hygienic practices when in food premises and also by patronising shops that provide a clean and hygienic service to their customers.

ICE-CREAM (Heat Treatment, etc.) REGULATIONS, 1947-52.

There are no ice-cream manufacturers n the area.

At retailers' premises all ice-cream sold is pre-packed and stored in cabinet refrigerators at or below 28 deg. F.

FACTORIES — DEFECTS FOUND

Premises	M/C Line No.	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	2	6	6.	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	1	1	—	—
TOTAL ...		7	7	—	—

[illegible] & [illegible]ENNICK,
[illegible], [illegible]binders and
[illegible]
"[illegible]" Office,
[illegible] Street, Wigan